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thereby contributing to his own safety and helping to prevent the possible spread of the disease. If the practice were universal among children and the vaccination repeated at occasional intervals these periodic scares in large cities would not occur.

## AN UNFOUNDED STATEMENT.

The declaration that the ministry no longer offers attractions to educated men because few preachers are wanted who are past forty years of age is made by a woman who is herself a minister. Her aim seems to have been to show that if men fail to meet the demands of churches when they are past forty years of age, why should not the work of the preacher be turned over to women? There would be something in the point if women had shown that they are better qualified for the work of the preacher than are men, and if it had been demonstrated that the churches will have none but young pastors.

It has caused much surprise that church leaders have not questioned the frequent assertion that only young ministers are acceptable to the churches generally, for the reason that such a condition would imply that those who support the churches have a faith so superficial that the smartness and possibly immature eloquence of the young man just out of the theological school are preferred to the efforts of the man whose years of experience and study have revealed the wisdom and the power of the Christian faith. The eloquence of the early orator and the enthusiasm of the young preacher are not to be undervalued, but will not that eloquence be more effective when years of experience and study shall have ripened the judgment and matured the life? It will be a serious day for the Christian faith when it can be said that the Rev. Creame Cheeses and the sensational young man who is more an actor than a preacher are the preferred preachers and pastors by the great body of people who support the churches. While it appears to be true that a service resembling the vaudeville is often resorted to by crowd churches, is it not a fact that those churches which resort to such devices soon lose their power?

In the law, in medicine and in other professions, even in literature, age and experience with ability receive the greatest rewards. As a rule the lawyers who are called to the greatest causes are men on the shady side of fifty and often beyond the limit of sixty. He is the physician of years who has the wide reputation. Even the greatest actors have achieved their greatest renown after passing the meridian of life. And so in the church: the men who have made reputation as preachers are those who are fifty years of age or older. If one should name the leading preachers and divines in all the denominations the best of those most distinguished and who are regarded as the ablest preachers are men who have passed the age of fifty. As a rule the men who grow to a wide reputation as preachers are those who develop with the study and experience of years, while the man who leaps to prominence in early life as suddenly lapses. In the ministry, as in other professions, there are many men who are not fitted for the work. Many lack the necessary ability and are naturally at their best early in life, when they have enthusiasm. The exertions of churches have prevented the growth of many preachers, yet the churches have had a name and are a force in the religious world as those, in many cases, with which the pastors have grown old. There are the frivolous congregations who go to church for the same reason that they go to the theater—to be interested or amused. Such churches change preachers frequently for the same reason that they would become weary of the best actor should they see him every week for a year. Such churches are not the centers of religious power and should not be taken into consideration. Generally, however, the churches which are a force in the community are those which keep the pastor a series of years, and to which his years are rich in usefulness and sacred memories.

A LONG CONTEST.

It is said, and is probably true, that the Vincennes University claim will be presented to the present Legislature and a strenuous effort made to secure the allowance of what is claimed to be due. It has been the longest contested claim in the history of the State, and had its beginning several years before the State was admitted to the Union. The contest has been waged in the courts, up to the Supreme Court of the United States and back again, enlisting the talents of some of the best lawyers in the State, and has come before several legislatures. Aside from the question of its merits it has an interesting history.

Upon the petition of inhabitants of "Old Vincennes" who believed in government support of education, Congress, on the 4th of March, 1804, set apart one entire township of land in the Vincennes land district for the benefit of a seminary of learning, and in October following the secretary of the treasury selected and set apart township No. 2 south, range 11 west, situated in Gibson county. To carry out the intention of Congress the Territorial Legislature of Indiana passed an act Nov. 29, 1806, and a supplemental act Sept. 17, 1807, incorporating the Vincennes University and recognizing it as the recipient of the congressional land grant. The act named twenty-two incorporators, William Henry Harrison leading the list, which contained the names of Henry Vanderburg, Benjamin Parke, Gen. Francis Vigo and others, which have been preserved in Indiana history. Before this time Congress had passed an act giving a second township of land for the same purpose, and locating it in Monroe county. In order to raise funds for building and other purposes Congress authorized the incorporators to sell or lease not exceeding 4,000 acres of the land it had donated. Their committee on building selected a site in Vincennes, a brick building was erected and a school was opened in 1811. This was the second university established west of the Allegheny mountains, the first having been established under an act of Congress at Athens, O., in December, 1804. The Vincennes University was a small affair from an educational point of view, but it had a legal existence and quite a considerable land grant. Indiana was admitted to the Union in 1816, and on Jan. 20, 1820, the Legislature granted a charter to a State University at Bloomington and appointed commissioners to take possession of the Vincennes University lands and rent them and turn the proceeds into the state treasury. As the lands had been dedicated by Congress to the establishment and maintenance of a university at Vincennes this was an act of doubtful justice, if not of legality. In 1821 the Legislature passed another act

changing the name of Vincennes University to Knox County Seminary. The evident intent of this legislation was to wipe out the Vincennes University and transfer its lands, of which it then had about 19,000 acres, to the State University at Bloomington. But the trustees of Vincennes University kept up a legal existence, and, in 1823, they took legal advice regarding the possibility of recovering their lands. A brief of the facts and the legislation on the subject was sent to Chancellor Kent, of New York, author of "Kent's Commentaries," and he gave an elaborate opinion in favor of the university, concluding: "I am of the opinion that the Legislature of Indiana is bound by the most imperious obligations of justice and honor to indemnify the university for this unconstitutional arrest and detention of its property." The board then employed Hon. Samuel Judah, of Vincennes, one of the ablest lawyers of the time, to institute suits for ejectment against the occupants of the lands in Gibson county. These suits, brought in the local courts, caused such an excitement and uproar that the Legislature passed a bill authorizing the board to bring suit against the State in the Marion Circuit Court. Upon trial a Marion county jury gave the university judgment for \$30,000.66, for the lands which the State had already sold. On appeal to the State Supreme Court, in 1850, the case was reversed. Counsel for the university then appealed to the Supreme Court of the United States, which, in 1852, reversed the decision of the state court. The United States Supreme Court said: "The claim is a just one, and if the reservations of these lands had been judiciously managed they would have constituted a fund, at this time, of \$300,000." In 1855 the Legislature, recognizing the validity of the claim, passed an act providing for the issue of bonds for an amount covering principal and interest for the land that had been sold up to the time of the passage of the act. Under this act bonds were issued to the amount of \$66,566, and it was provided that this should be in full settlement of all claims of the university against the State. The board, however, refused to accept this condition, and claimed that the university was entitled to pay for 2,300 acres of land that was still unsold. In 1856 the Legislature appropriated \$15,000 to cancel the claim, and the State demanded a receipt in full. This was given under protest which was spread on the records of the House. In 1859 the Legislature passed a bill authorizing an issue of bonds for \$120,000, payable in twenty years. This bill was vetoed by Governor Mount, who recommended the appointment of a committee "to inquire as to what disposition was made of the aforesaid 1,584 acres of land, and report to the next General Assembly whether or not there is anything due Vincennes University by reason of the sale of these lands." A committee was appointed which made a report to the Senate of 1861 reciting the foregoing facts, and concluding: "The compensation rendered by the State to the university was evidently very inadequate to repair the wrong done, while the State, on the other hand, has not retained any of the fruits of the wrongful sale, so far as we can determine. We submit upon the foregoing statement of facts that there is no legal claim against the State in favor of the Vincennes University. As to whether the State should recognize an equitable or moral responsibility for the wrong inflicted by the State upon the university, we leave to the judgment of the Senate." On the strength of this report the Senate of 1861 passed a bill reciting the facts and declaring that "the State of Indiana is now equitably indebted to the said board of trustees for the Vincennes University in the sum of \$120,000," and authorized the issuing of bonds to that amount, to be accepted in full payment of the entire claim. The bill did not reach a vote in the House.

## RIGHTS OF BRIDEGROOMS.

In either verbal or printed accounts of weddings it has come to be so that the bridegroom seldom receives more than a "mere mention." It is understood, of course, that a wedding involves the existence of a bridegroom as well as a bride, but of so little consequence is he as a spectacular feature of the occasion that it is as much as he may expect to have his name spoken of in connection with the affair. If anything further is said it is that he was "attired" in the conventional "black" and he is dismissed at that, while all the space allowed the reporter is occupied with descriptions of the bride and her attendants. No doubt the self-pride of many a newly-made husband thus ignored has been severely hurt. He knows himself to be really a person of importance in the ceremony that has just taken place; he knows that he is quite as essential an element in the proceedings as the bride, and he must secretly resent a treatment which rates him as of no more consequence than as one "among those present." This, at least, is the view evidently taken of the matter by Mr. William Gebhard, of Lebanon, Pa., who was married the other day to a lady of the same town; but in his case he took thought in advance. He had observed the tendency to regard the bridegroom as a necessary but comparatively insignificant adjunct to a wedding, and resolved that he would not be thus lightly considered, but would take his rightful place and share honors with the bride when it came his time to stand before the marriage altar. Therefore it was that when he was wedded the other day he was arrayed in a suit of pure white broadcloth, ornamented with large buttons studded with opals. The bride also wore white, of course, but it is not necessary to read the reports of the affair to be assured that the eyes of the large assembly of Lebanon's "best people" gathered in the church rested on Mr. Gebhard with quite as much interest as upon the lady who was being made Mrs. Gebhard, and that he was equally a subject of conversation when the ceremony was over. As a matter of fact he was the sensation of the hour and the bride was decidedly in the background. Thus by one bold move has this Pennsylvania shown his brethren how they may remove the stigma that has so long rested on civilized man of being a nonentity at his own wedding, and how to appear on an equal footing with woman, who has so long enjoyed an unjust distinction at such times. Hereafter, by a little thought taken

in the ordering of the wedding garment and by providing for its special adornment, the bridegroom may cease to occupy the humiliating position of an "also ran," or of "hand others" on this most important occasion of his life. All that was needed was a pioneer, and Mr. Gebhard now possesses that position.

## RED LIGHT FOR SMALLPOX.

A very interesting article in McClure's Magazine describes the discovery of the power of light in the cure of disease, made by Niels Finlen, of Denmark. This discovery was made two or three years ago and has been fully described in medical journals, but comparatively little has been known about it by the public. Chief importance is given in this article, and apparently by scientific men generally, to the curative action of light on lupus, a terrible form of tuberculosis affecting the face and outer parts of the body, and it is perhaps because this disease is rare in this country that so little has heretofore been said on the subject in popular prints. But, while hospitals for the light treatment of lupus have been established in London, Paris and elsewhere, where the malady is common, it would seem that Finlen's other and earlier discovery, or rather, revival of an old bit of knowledge, concerning the effect of the red rays of light on smallpox is of even greater importance. According to the magazine article a smallpox patient confined in a room into which only red light enters will suffer no scarring of face or body. Tests made show, it is said, that the period of suppuration, the most dangerous and painful stage of smallpox, does not appear; there is no elevation of temperature and no edema. The patients enter the stage of convalescence immediately after the stage of vaccination, which seems a little prolonged. The hideous scars are avoided. The writer adds that all this is now understood, and the value of red light treatment recognized everywhere. This statement is certainly not applicable to this part of the country. Does any one hear of the Indianapolis smallpox hospital and its positively red light into the patients' quarters? Are any of the physicians who have smallpox cases in their private practice using this treatment? If not, and there is anything in the method, why not? Indianapolis boasts of its number of well-educated and enterprising physicians, and now that smallpox cases are becoming of unpleasant frequency here it should behoove them to put into operation the most advanced methods. Anything that lessens the rather unreasoning terror of this disease is to be encouraged. Finlen's discoveries seem to be on an entirely different and more scientific basis than General Pleasanton's famous "blue-glass cure," but even he, it is now admitted, was close on the track of a medical truth concerning the powers of light.

An article in a New York exchange announces that the latest fad in certain social circles is the practice of writing on the fly-leaf of a borrowed book the name of the person who has borrowed and read it. In this way, it is said, the reader can perceive what friends have read and enjoyed it before him, and the owner can tell to whom it has been loaned. A further practice is for each reader to indicate by a special mark or sign on the margin those passages or thoughts which have attracted or impressed him, and by putting this same sign after his name on the fly-leaf, later readers can ascertain who has marked certain passages, and if of the same mind will enter into a silent companionship with him. It was hardly necessary to explain that this fad had gained foothold in a social circle. Certainly it could never become a fashion with genuine book-lovers. To say nothing of the promiscuous lending of books, no true lover of books could look upon the penciling of his treasured volumes even by appreciative readers with anything but horror. He may choose to make marginal or interlinear notes himself—that is his own affair—but for alien hands to put a mark on those treasured pages is an offense he cannot condone. His books are his own in so intimate a sense that any liberties taken with them become a personal matter. Many a friendship has had its foundation shaken by the failure of the frequenters of a library to understand the sacredness to the owner of this particular form of property. There are exceptions to the rule, of course. If, for instance, one's favorite copy of Aldrich's poems should be borrowed by Riley and be annotated by him, or vice versa, it would be treasured more closely than ever before; but this would be a very different sort of thing from the marginal comments indulged in by the average reader. Apart from the vandalism of penciling other people's books, few things more famous are to be found than the remarks usually found in volumes thus treated, as witness the rubbish inscribed in public library books by "appreciative" borrowers. "Social" circles may find a satisfaction in books thus marked, but surely the circles which value books never will.

A Philadelphia paper discusses the abbreviations used for Pennsylvania in the addressing of mail and recommends "Penna" as preferable to "Penn." or "Pa." If a contraction is used at all this advice is good, but a better plan is to write out in full the name of whatever State is in question. It is the surest way of preventing mistakes. "Pennsylvania" is a long word, and it is a saving of time to write it "Penn." but in the uncertainty of shorthand "Penn." may be read "Tenn." and the time saved in writing be nothing as to the time lost before the letter finds its way to the right place. "Ind." may easily be read "Md." or it may have a look like "la." or "Ill." "Cal." and "Col." are dangerously alike; "Va." and "Vi." are not unlike as some people write them; "Miss." and "Minn." may have a similarity in a hastily written address—and so the names go. It is more trouble to inscribe the full name, but it is safer. Moreover, as a matter of aesthetics it looks better on the envelope.

The vitality in an old and very doubtful claim against the United States was illustrated in the House on Friday in the passage of several claims which are more than forty years of age. Time and again they have been rejected, but every now and then they come up, cheerful and persistent, if not confident. The Southern votes, whether Democrats or Republicans, can be counted for them to a man. On Friday, however, a few Republicans who were clever enough to vote away public money to oblige a fellow-member, stood by the solid South even against the more prominent members. Not long ago a number of claims would have been allowed had not Representative Hitt,

who was the stenographer of the committee which took testimony disproving them, recalled the fact and caused their defeat. It is safe to say that after the last man who has a memory of the war shall be dead these claims will survive and appear in Congress. If not immortal, they survive the centuries.

The best proof ever furnished that Indianapolis is "no mean city" is found in the success of the popular subscription fund for the technical school, and, following close after it, the subscription of nearly \$100,000 towards a coliseum, with a practical certainty that the amount will be increased to \$250,000. The first of these achievements alone would have been very honorable to the city and its people, but the second, following so soon after, makes a remarkable record. Such acts speak louder than words, and are the best possible evidence of a civic pride that does things. With the technical school, a national military post and a coliseum, all secured within one year, Indianapolis can point to greater results than have ever been achieved by a city of its class in the same length of time.

Hon. M. E. Ingalls thinks the people nowadays expect too much from the national government. "I deplore the idea," he says, "of calling upon Washington for everything, including operation of coal mines. Let the people govern and let them rule through their separate and sovereign States as was contemplated by our fathers." This is all right in the main, but if Mr. Ingalls thinks the State governments are falling into innocuous desuetude let him examine the enormous grist of bills introduced at every session of every State Legislature. The people are pretty well informed as to what the national government may or may not do, and only comparatively few of them demand that it should seize and operate the coal mines.

A "man who is making a tour of India" reports to a Philadelphia paper what he considers a remarkable invention used by priests in a certain town in that country. Two temples a mile distant have a means of communicating by a sort of telephone without electricity—a device which the priests say has been in use there for more than a thousand years. They refuse to tell the secret of the contrivance, but admit that two discs are connected by a wire of some kind. If this traveler in India had ever, when young, joined with a neighbor boy in setting up a telephone line between their respective homes, made connecting stretched between two fruit cans, he would not have regarded this Hindoo invention as such a mystery.

A bill has been introduced into the Kansas Legislature which imposes a fine of \$50 a year on all able-bodied bachelors between the ages of forty and sixty-five, and a fine of \$25 upon any able-bodied single woman between the ages of twenty-five and fifty years, who have no families to support. This bill is designed to reach Governor Bailey and Lieutenant Governor Hanna, who are said to have promised to marry before the election, but have not done so.

A bacteriologist recently made a microscopic examination of the washings from a woman's train worn on the streets of London, and claims to have found therein a million 0.672,00